

# Stourbridge Cricket Society

[www.sdcs.councilcricketsocieties.com](http://www.sdcs.councilcricketsocieties.com)

A Member of the Council of Cricket Societies

Autumn 2010

## From the Chair

With autumn just around the corner and the final cricket fixtures fast approaching, may I welcome you all back; members, new members and potential new members to what we, your Committee, believe will be a full and very interesting winter of cricket evenings.

Terry has once again prepared a programme for us which I believe will be a little bit special and will certainly maintain our high standards, encouraging interesting debate amongst us all.

This has been a season when England have won a World Trophy, two Test series, two One-day series and a Twenty 20 series as I write, yet it has been a sorry mess of a summer tarnished by scandal, an unfathomable fixture list and dwindling crowds. Thrown into the mix are overseas players dropping into county sides for a few games and moving on – what are the ECB playing at?

The two Division County Championship system seems to be working well. Warwickshire's new building work should be complete by the middle of next year and what a magnificent pavilion that will be, lets hope they remain in Division One.

Worcestershire without doubt have improved and are now starting to win games compared with the position they found themselves in last year. The introduction of young players owes a lot to the belief and hard work of Steve Rhodes and others behind the scenes.

Clubs locally seem to lack consistency, relying too often on overseas players. However, the level of support and work carried out by the few hard working club members who give of their time is extremely encouraging.

Himley put on a great show of Day/Night cricket, the first of its kind in the West Midlands which was well supported, despite the poor weather and intend a repeat at least for the next three seasons. Let us all wish them success in this new venture.

Finally, may I welcome Murray George as our newly appointed Secretary and thank Mike Taylor for his fine work over the last ten years. Remember the Society is what we make it, to enjoy our cricket chat, to relax, ask questions and to bring along new members.

Here's to a great winter.

**Mike Tomkins**  
Chairman

### Our Speakers

21 October

**Dennis Amiss MBE**

Warwickshire and England

18 November

**Malcolm Scott**  
with **Stephen Chalke**

Northants (and Newcastle Utd)

9 December

**Anthony Collis**

Cricket Inn Signs

Please note date change for December meeting.

The Newsletter of Stourbridge and District Cricket Society

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## Our New Secretary – Murray George

The first result on May 6th General Election Day, was not from Sunderland; it was from this Society. I was surprised Mike wished to step down as our secretary, and those who attended the AGM wanted me to take over. So after some consideration and assured support, I decided to give it a go; the opportunity to give something back after enjoying all the meetings and outings, since becoming a member, meant I couldn't really resist! So via the News Letter, here is a little bit about me and how I became a follower of this great game.

I am Murray George, confusion often reigns; much of my correspondence being sent to Mr. G Murray; indeed one of the bricks at the back of the d'Oliveira Stand, reads George Murray; they did it again correctly with my middle initial added. There are a few Test Cricketers that have Murray as their given name, recently Goodwin, but also Parker, Bennett, Webb, Bissett and Chapple. I do answer to Muz, but only if you get me on the right side! I first took notice of the Noble Game in the late 50's. I had a clear view of the New Road Ground, from the family home a quarter of a mile away. This New Road being the old Bromsgrove Cricket Ground. Norman Hedges, who lived three doors away, was the leading player of that time; his cousin Frank being the scorer and later was County Second eleven scorer. But it was Frank Ross, who was related to Martin Horton, and lived two doors in the opposite direction to Norman, who used to play in his back garden with his son and my brother and myself. Frank being at one time the towns Second Team Captain, really set me on my way with understanding what a great game Cricket is.

My interest in First Class Cricket came about when I watched the West Indies in

1963 Cowdrey walking out to bat with a broken arm to save the Lords Test. In 1964 I was taken to Worcester to watch Yorkshire, who batted first, Geoff Boycott, who two weeks later was to make his Test Debut, made nought!

Later that summer I was taken to Edgbaston to see the Aussies take on Warwickshire, Bob Barber scoring a century before lunch. Despite Norman O Neil refusing to sign my brochure whilst fielding at third man; I have always loved Australian Cricket. Now God willing, I am going to realise my longest standing ambition. Between our November and December Meetings, I am going to Brisbane then Adelaide via Sydney, to see the Test Matches.

That Summer, I had to decide which county to support. I was born at the Lickey, just inside Worcestershire, but Birmingham is nearer than Worcester. They were first and second in the Championship, but because Worcester appeared to be the underdog, I decided they would always be my team.

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## Lucky Member

Congratulations to Mark Ashbourne who won a pair of tickets to each Saturday of every npower Test this summer in a Wisden Cricketer Magazine Competition.

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## Raffle Prizes

Donations of raffle prizes enable us to maintain our subscription levels at a competitive level by generating a net income of approximately £500.

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## Hugo Yarnold: Little man with a big heart

There was a match between Somerset and Gloucestershire, at Bath 20 years or so ago, when Gloucestershire were making quiet, steady progress on a peaceful Saturday afternoon. Somerset made a bowling change. Bryant was brought on to bowl to Milton. Yarnold was moving to the umpiring position at square-leg.

I was broadcasting radio commentary. We were not getting very much commentary time in those days, and Robert Hudson, then Director of Outside Broadcasts, had devised a scheme by which we might get a little more of the action. This required commentators to record passages of exciting play, in advance of the next scheduled transmission, so that even if the play then proved to be dull we would have some moments of drama on which to fall back. The difficulty was, of course, that you can never tell when, in cricket, the exciting moments are going to occur and much effort was abortively expended by commentators and engineers on wrong guesses. However, I felt that I was on a good bet that day at Bath. There had been much controversy about 'throwing'. Bryant was already a suspect thrower, and Yarnold known to be a stern judge. So we switched the machine on.

Bryant was a slow left-arter, who meant no physical harm to any batsman, and did none. But he did have an odd action. The arm was bent, in a kind of upward jerk, especially when he tried to flight the ball. Yarnold watched him from square-leg, for the second ball crossed over to deep point, went back to square-leg and no-balled the third. He went on no-balling him. His calls were resonant and picked up clearly by the effects microphone. It gave me good marks with Robert Hudson when it was broadcast a little later on.

I cannot now remember how many balls that over took to complete, but it must have been nearly a dozen. I do remember the gentle refusal of Arthur Milton to try to hit them. He sensed the distress of a fellow professional. I do not think that Bryant ever bowled in first-class cricket again.

Yes, Yarnold was a stern man, when he was umpiring. He was reluctant to approve appeals. I remember Eric Hill, one afternoon when the Somerset bowlers had been flailing their arms and voices about in vain, pronouncing judgment: 'This man Yarnold,' he said in his dark brown voice, 'is a Notter.'

He was a good umpire, all the same, and before that a good cricketer. ... His health was a bother and he had to have a severe operation, both kneecaps removed, during his active career. It was courageous of him to continue and courageous too to take up umpiring, with its nagging, prolonged strains on the legs. He umpired in three Tests.

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## Momentum Watch

"Staying in Division One looked unlikely at one point and that was a real high so we have confidence and momentum coming here" said Ashley Giles shortly before Warwickshire won the Pro40 final. Nothing builds momentum like narrowly avoiding relegation!

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## Christmas Quiz

A bottle of something for Christmas for the highest score to be presented at the December meeting. Answers on a postcard to Ken Workman before our December meeting, please.

- 1 WHO AM I ? (1 point each).(Someone's removed all the vowels! They all played first class cricket for Worcestershire).
- A BBB RDBNT  
B BR NBRN  
C LNRM RD  
D CH DGBBNS
- 2 What connects each of the following ( 2 points each).
- A 1964:1965:1974:1988:AND 1989
- B Martin Horton: Len Coldwell: 1961: Jack Flavell: Norman Gifford
- C Barry Gilbert:Sandy Singleton: Philip Whitcombe:George Abell
- D Ted Arnold: Fred Root: Dick Howarth: Martin Horton
- E RE Foster: Nawab of Pataudi(Snr): Basil D'Oiveira: Graeme Hick:Tom Moody

## The Things They Say

"What have I done to offend you?"  
**Gareth Batty's question to a Worcestershire supporter who heckled him during Surrey's Championship match at New Road.**

"We have nothing against men cricketers. Some of them are quite nice people even though they don't win as often as we do" **Rachael Heyhoe-Flint.**

"Welcome to Worcester where you've just missed seeing Barry Richards hit one of Basil D'Oliveira's balls clean out of the ground" **Brian Johnstone**

## Subscriptions 2010/2011

Remain unchanged at £10 (£15 for couples). Members are invited to send a cheque to Ken Workman, 15 Ridge Road, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 9RB made payable to Stourbridge and District Cricket Society (S&DCS) or at our meeting on 21 October.

## Who's Who in Stourbridge Cricket Society

President Dave Nicklin

Chairman Mike Tomkins 01384 288868

Secretary Murray George 01527 576524 [janeandmurray@hotmail.com](mailto:janeandmurray@hotmail.com)

Treasurer Ken Workman 01384 830881

Programme Secretary Terry Church 01384 292170 [terrychurch@btclick.com](mailto:terrychurch@btclick.com)